

Odor Removal



Skunk odor is a complex chemical compound and can be extremely nauseating. For one of the best analyses of skunk musk and why some deodorizers work and others don't, see Dr. Wood's Skunk Website, from the Dept. of Chemistry at Humboldt State University:

<http://www.humboldt.edu/%7Ewfw2/skunkspray.shtml>

Many old remedies do not work, such as tomato juice or vinegar. There are several commercial skunk odor removers on the market. However, when you need them you do not usually have time to buy them.

***Here is a remedy
that really works.***

Dr. Wood's formula:

1 quart 3% Hydrogen Peroxide
¼ cup of Baking Soda
1 teaspoon of Liquid Soap
While the mixture is bubbling,
wash the affected area, and then rinse
off with water.
Repeat as needed.



Living With Skunks



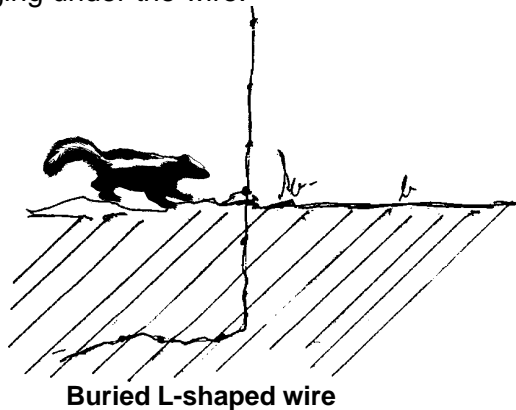
Skunks are excellent "mousers", and may even be better at it than cats. They eat many mice, rats, other small rodents, grubs,

and a variety of insects. They will also take the eggs and young of ground nesting birds. There are many instances of skunks living in close contact with humans under sheds, decks, houses, and even in garages, without ever spraying their human hosts. Skunks are generally shy, nonaggressive, retiring and nocturnal creatures. With a little acceptance and understanding, you can live with skunks, if you do not unduly alarm them. However, there are many instances, especially where you have pets or young children, where this may not be possible.

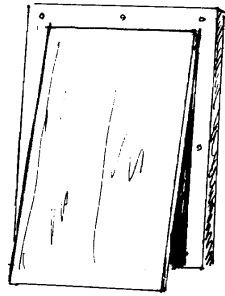


Discouraging Skunks

Removing attractants that draw skunks is the best possible prevention. Do not leave dog and cat food or garbage where skunks can get to it. A good rodent control program will also discourage skunks. Clean up old piles of lumber and brush where skunks may live. You should board up entries and crawl spaces under sheds, houses, and other buildings. Entrances can be blocked with chicken wire and it should be buried at least 6 inches. Buried wire should be set in an "L" shape and extended out another 6 inches to keep the skunk from digging under the wire.



Installing one-way doors at the entrance of dens is an option. If the skunk digs new entrances around the door, plug them up. Leave the one-way door installed for several days to ensure that the skunk is really gone.



A one way door may be easily built by suspending the door from a wire, and adding a stop to prevent it from swinging inward. Another method is to construct a doorframe with the door extending beyond the bottom frame, allowing it to open only one way.



Front
1.5x1.25 in



Hind
1.9x1.4 in

Mild harassment of the skunks

works some of the time. Leave repellants such as ammonia soaked rags or mothballs in burrows or where skunks have to pass to go in and out of their dens. It has even been suggested that leaving a light on under a shed or deck utilized by a skunk may make it move out. Here's a repellant from Jerry Baker, Master Gardener's radio talk show:

Mix 8 oz. Murphy's oil soap with 4 oz. of castor oil and 1 oz. of human urine in 1 gallon of water (U. of WI - Madison Extension Document G3273).

To Catch a Skunk

Skunks are relatively easy to catch. Many Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices and some local animal control offices have live traps that they will loan you. They can also refer you to persons who trap nuisance animals for a fee.

Traps may be baited with sardines, canned tuna or fish-flavored cat food. Cover the trap with a tarp or old blanket. This will make it easier for you to approach the trapped skunk and move it without being sprayed.

You should approach the trap quietly and spread the cover over the open trap entrance. This provides a dark secure environment for the skunk. You can then gently move the skunk to your vehicle and even transport it easily without the skunk spraying.

It has been shown that transporting a skunk in a covered trap has proven to be perfectly safe. At your skunk release site, set the trap up so that you can remotely open the door. It is recommended that skunks be transported at least 10 miles from the capture site.

For Further Information

Nuisance Animals. 1997. John Trout, Jr. Midwest Publishing. Tennyson, IN.

Pocket Guide to The Humane Control of Wildlife in Cities & Towns. Guy Hodge, ed. Falcon Press Publishing. Helena, MT.

Prevention and control of Wildlife Damage. 1994. Cooperative Extension Division. Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE.

Wild Neighbors The Humane Approach to Living with Wildlife. 1997. John Hadidian, Guy Hodge and John Grandy, eds. The Humane Society of the United States. Washington, D.C.